

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03695 100012Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----020424 100016Z /62
O 092145Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7403

S E C R E T MANAGUA 3695

STADIS////////////////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MORG, MPOL
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO MODIFY STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL GUARD

REF: MANAGUA 3435

1. POLOFF SPOKE ON 9 AUGUST WITH CONSERVATIVE PARTY DEPUTY WHO PROVIDED POLOFF WITH COPY OF LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS NEXT WEEK. LEGISLATION HAS TWO PURPOSES: 1) REMOVE GN FROM BEING "FIEFDON" OF PRESIDENT AND 2) ELIMINATE EX-PRESIDENTS FROM GN.O

2. TEXT OF RELEVANT ARTICLES: BEGIN QUOTE - ARTICLE 1--
MILITARY MEN RELATED WITHIN THE FOURTH DEGREE BY BLOOD, OR THE SECOND BY MARRIAGE, TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC SHALL NOT OCCUPY ANY POSITION OF COMMAND WITHIN THE ARMY OR ARMED FORCE DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH HIS RELATIVE EXERCISES THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC. ARTICLE2-- EX-PRESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC SHALL NOT OCCUPY ANY POSITION WITHIN THE NATIONAL GUARD OR ANY ARMED FORCE OF THE REPUBLIC. -END QUOTE.

3. PCN DEPUTY INDICATED THAT HE HAD CONSULTED WITH PLN SPOKESMAN, PALLAIS, WHO HAD ASKED HIM TO DELAY INTRODUCTION
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OF LEGISLATION UNTIL SOMOZA COULD BE CONSULTED.
(NOTE: SOMOZA IS CURRENTLY OUT OF NICARAGUA, BUT IS EXPECTED TO RETURN 9 AUGUST. END NOTE) PCN DEPUTY AGREED TOWAIT UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: EMB VIEWS THIS INITIATIVE AS A KIND OF HOPED-FOR FIRST STEP TOWARD ESSENTIAL STRUCTURAL REFORM AND

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF GN. PCN DEPUTY INDICATED THAT PROVISIONS OF LAW ARE DESIGNED TO PERMIT SOMOZA TO SHOW GOOD FAITH BY ALLOWING HIS SON TO BE REMOVED FROM MAINSTREAM OF GN DURING SOMOZA'S PRESIDENCY. ACTUAL DEFINITION OF "POSITION OF COMMAND" IS AMBIGUOUS AND HENCE NEGOTIABLE. WHATEVER SOMOZA'S RESPONSE TO THE PRIOR CONSULTATION, THE BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED. SHOULD IT BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND, AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE GON'S CREDIBILITY WOULD BE LOST.
SOLAUNO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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